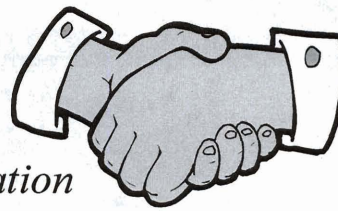


# In Touch

*The City's new monthly source for service information*



Volume 3 - Issue 3

## Hydrant Flushing

### *The Importance of Flushing Water Lines*

Residents who notice City crews working at fire hydrants and see water running into the street may think that the City is ignoring its own philosophy of conserving water.



The process of periodically "flushing" fire hydrants, however, is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of a routine maintenance program

necessary to maintain the integrity of the water distribution system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers.

The City's water distribution system consists of over 315 miles of lines and 2,335 fire hydrants. Every fire hydrant is flushed on an annual basis, typically in the months of May and June. Flushing the water distribution system achieves three objectives.

- Helps to keep the interior of the lines clean (removes sediment);
- Helps maintain excellent water quality; and
- Provides an opportunity to check all fire hydrants to ensure that they are operating properly if needed to fight fires.

Flushing one fire hydrant typically takes about seven minutes and flows water at approximately 700 gallons per minute (5,000 gallons per fire hydrant). Based on 2,335 fire hydrants at 5,000 gallons each, a total of 11.7 million gallons of water is utilized to complete the flushing of lines. This total is slightly less than the 2006 peak days of 12.1 million gallons. This flows through the storm drain system and either flows back to the river channel or to other local bodies of water.

The cost to flush a hydrant is approximately \$30. This includes wages, water and equipment. The cost of flushing is money well invested. So, the next time you see City crews flushing a hydrant, you can rest assured that they are working hard to protect the safety of the public, improve water quality, and properly maintain the water distribution system.

On the back of this page, you will find a map that depicts the area for each day of the flushing process and the scheduled day for your area.



If you would like further information about this topic, please feel free to contact Martha Tasker, Director of Utilities at (785) 309-5725.

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**An informed citizen**



**is a better citizen!**



# City Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule

## Day Tested, # of Hydrants

	May 21, 195
	May 21 (Evening), 102
	May 22, 130
	May 23, 113
	May 24, 162
	May 25, 210
	May 29, 114
	May 30, 106
	May 31, 178
	June 1, 68
	June 4, 90
	June 5, 113
	June 6, 154
	June 7, 244
	June 8, 168
	June 11, 187

2335 Total Fire Hydrants in Service

# City of Salina

